

Reporting on Section 6

Community and Town Councils

Environment (Wales) Act 2016 Part 1 – Section 6 *The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty*

The Biodiversity and Resilience of Ecosystems Duty

Report 2025

Name of Community or Town Council:	PENHOW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
---	--------------------------

Group:	2
---------------	---

Introduction and Context

Penhow is a rural community to the east of Newport in the Bishton & Langstone Ward of Newport City Council (NCC).

With a total area of 8.5km² (850Ha/2100 Acres), the breakdown is as follows:

- Parc Seymour village (semi-urban) – 17.5Ha (43 Acres) ~2%.
- Woodland – 260Ha (545 Acres) ~31%.
- Enclosed farmland and isolated houses 572.5Ha (1512 Acres). ~67%.

The majority of the 644 electorate in 343 properties are concentrated in Parc Seymour village and along the A48, which bisects the Community Council area.

The woodland is predominantly part of Wentwood Forest (222Ha), a larger area of Ancient Woodland owned mostly by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and the Woodland Trust (Coed Cadw). Parc Seymour Woods (21Ha) is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in private hands. NRW own Coed Wen (17Ha) another SSSI and Nature Reserve (part of Penhow Woodlands).

The Community Council is responsible for several designated “green spaces” within the village of Parc Seymour under Wales’ Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Action Report 2023 - 2025

NRAP Objective	Action carried out to...	Monitored by:
1	-embed biodiversity into decision making & procurement	Green Spaces is a fixed agenda item on the monthly Council meetings, with an appointed lead Councillor.
	-raise awareness of biodiversity & its importance	The Council have recently approved a 'Green Spaces Policy' which has been published on the Council web site. It aims to underpin decision making and forms the basis for the construction of both this report and the next Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP).
2	-safeguard principal species and habitats	The Council plants and maintains several wildflower beds, planters, and pots throughout the village. The wildflower beds contain a mix of pollinator-friendly flower seeds, providing a visual and ecological enhancement throughout the area. The planters are managed by a network of local volunteers.
3	-restore & create habitats and resilient ecological networks	• The Council lease, manage and maintain a large Playing Field adjacent to the village. The Council secured a BUPA Foundation Green Community Grant of just under £1,800 to plant a native species hedge along the length of the Playing Field. The hedging slips (sourced from a local nursery) were planted by volunteers including local school children and members of the local Scout Group. • Under the 'Local Places for Nature' scheme Keep Wales Tidy approved a grant totalling £600 which included the supply of 20m² of wildflower impregnated turf for the Playing Field. The remainder of the money was used to buy 350 wildflower bulbs which were planted in other wildflower beds.
Council and Lead		
Council and Lead		
Council and Lead		

4	-tackle negative factors: for e.g. reduce pollution, use nature-based solutions, address invasive species	Waste bins are provided by NCC and the Council throughout the village and in the Playing Fields. Dog Waste bins in the Playing Fields are also provided, and the Council provides dog waste bags to encourage people to clear up after their dogs.	Council and Lead
5	-use improve and share evidence	The wildflower beds are signed. The Council has recently installed an information board in the Playing Field with the aim of highlighting biodiversity aspects of the area.	Council and Lead
6	-support capacity and/or other organisations	• The Council works closely with Coed Cadw and NRW in reporting fly-tipping in wooded areas and with NCC who undertake several of the contract tasks (such as grass cutting). • The owners of Castell-prin wood (part of Parc Seymour wood SSSI) are engaged with Southeast Wales Biodiversity Records Centre and the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). They hold community engagement and other woodland experience events. • The Council was awarded a plaque and certificate by the Community Land Advisory Service (CLAS) in their 2025 Community Management Awards for the work in the Playing Field.	Council and Lead

Review of S6 duty actions for 2023-2025	
What has worked well?	The wildflower meadows, especially at the entrance to the village and in the Playing Fields, have proved a success. There have been loads of pollinators, and they look good too!
What have the barriers been?	• The Councillor who led the Green Spaces activities has left the Council (due to ill health). He was qualified and equipped to undertake many routine tasks himself. The Council must now buy in these services, resulting in a greater strain on the small budget. • Some of the newer wildflower beds failed in 2024 due to poor soil conditions. It was reluctantly decided to return these areas to grass. • The very dry conditions throughout 2025 had an adverse effect on all planting, especially the planters and pots which were only kept going by volunteers watering them. The new hedge has undoubtedly suffered but we shall not really know until next spring by how much.
What will you change?	The upcoming Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) will build on the experiences gained and outlined in this report. In particular, fresh planting should always be signed.
How and when will the s6 duty be monitored and the s6 plan reviewed?	The BAP will be produced in time for the January 2026 Council meeting and be reviewed and approved then. Thereafter, Green Spaces will remain a regular agenda item, with the Lead reporting back to the Council on progress and new initiatives. Penhow Community Council are committed to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity within the Community. Funding will be made available annually to maintain the designated green spaces, provide decorative planting and refresh wildflower meadows. Where additional funding from grants is available (eg for the newly planted hedge in the Playing Field) this will be sought. The Council will also encourage residents to maintain and enhance biodiversity in their gardens, as well as scrutinising Planning Applications to ensure local biodiversity aspects are carefully considered.